



By the King.

¶ A Proclamation declaring His Maiesties Royall
pleasure and Command, for putting the Lawes and Statutes
made against Jesuites, Priests, and Popish Recusants,
in due execution.



Hereas Wee haue found by experience, that notwithstanding the strict and sevare Lawes made, and standing in force against Jesuites, Priests, and others hauing taken Orders by authority derived, or pretended to be derived, from the Sea of Rome, and notwithstanding Our former restraints and prohibitions, by proclamation, and other wise, many of them haue presumed to resort, and remaine within this Our Realme, and other parts of Our Dominions, and there doe dayly endeavour to withdraw and seduce Our Subjects from the true Religion of Almighty God, and from their due Allegiance and obedience towards Us their liege Lord, and that many of Our Subjects misled by them, haue aduentured to receive, harbour, and maintaine them, and thereby haue incurred the danger of Our Lawes:

And therefore not finding that good effect which wee did, and might iustly expect of any former course taken in that behalfe, wee haue thought fit, and doe hereby publish Our Royall pleasure and Command, That carefull and diligent search bee made by all Our Officers and Ministers, and by all others to whom it may appertaine, for all Jesuites, Priests, and others, hauing taken Orders by authority derived or pretended to bee derived from the Sea of Rome, and that wheresoever, and whensocuer they shall be found, they bee apprehended, and committed to the common Gaole of that County, where they shall bee found, There to remaine without Baile or Mainprise, vntill by due course of Law they shall bee tryed, and proceeded with according to Law; which wee will shall bee done with all convenient expedition: And if vpon their Tryall and Conviction there shall bee cause to respite the execution of any of them, yet wee are resoluued not to let them lie in those common Gaoles, much lesse to wander about at large, but according to the example of former times, to send them to the Castle of Westbich, or some other safe Prison, where they shall remaine vnder strait and close custodie, and bee wholly restrained from exercising their functions, or spreading their superstitious and dangerous doctrine.

And wee are also resoluued, whereof wee doe hereby give notice to all, whom it may concerne, at their vttermost perils, That the Harbourours, Receivers, and Maintainers of Jesuites, Priests, and all such others as haue received, or shall receive Orders, as aforesaid, shall bee left to the dñe and ordinary course of Law.

And wee doe further will and command, That all Our Judges, Justices, and Ministers of Justice in their severall places, not only doe obserue Our will and pleasure before expressed, in all and every the premisses; but also doe put all other Our Lawes in due execution against Popish Recusants; And that Our Judges of Assise, at their returne out of their Circuities, doe from time to time hereafter, give a true & strict account of their proceedings therin, vnto Our Lord Keeper of the great Seale, and that Our Lord Keeper doe present the same vnto Us.

And whereas heretofore wee graunted severall Commissions, for Leasing and Demising of the Lands of Recusants, liable to their forfeitures, with Instructions for the direction of Our Commissioners in that Service, wee, minding a due Reformation of the manifold neglects and abuses of Our inferiour Officers, and others, whereby that part of Our Revenue hath beene extremely lessened, and those who were backward in Religion have been encouraged to persist in their obstinacie and blindnesse, haue caused those Commissions and Instructions to be reviewed, and in many parts altered, for our better Service and Profit; And wee doe hereby declare the same, to the intent that such as shall bee willing to Contract with Us, or to further Our Service, or aduance Our Profit in that behalfe, may attend Our said Commissioners.

And Whereas wee are informed, that divers haue Contracted for Leases of Recusants Lands, who doe not sue out their Leases, to Our great hinderance, Our will and pleasure is, That all such as haue already Contracted with Our Commissioners for Leases of Recusants Lands, shall passe them vnder Our Seales before the ende of Michaelmas Terme next; And such as shall hereafter Contract for any such Leases, shall passe them vnder Our Seales, before the ende of the Terme then next following after such Contracts made, or else their Contracts to bee utterly boyd.

And wee doe straitly charge all Our sayd Commissioners, that they bee carefull to aduance Our Profit herein, according to the true intent of Our Comissions and Instructions; And that they vse all diligence to discouer, and auoyde all abuses which may tend to the diminution of Our Profit, or to the increase of Popery, and backe-sliding from the true Religion established in the Church of England.

Given at Our Court at Southwicke, the third day of August, in the fourth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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